

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 271905" JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1066
INF AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS PONTA DELGADA 024

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS : PINT PO

SUBJECT : POLITICAL TENSION LEADS TO VIOLENCE ON SAO MIGUEL

1. SUMMARY: SINCE JAN 1 TENSION BETWEEN SAO MIBUEL LEFT (PCP, MDP, PSP, AND MES) ON ONE HAND AND PPD AND MAPA ON THE OTHER HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS HAVE OCCURED FOR FIRST TIME.

2. ON NEW YEARS EVE, PONTA DELGADA HEADQUARTERS OF MOVEMENT FOR SELF-DERTERMINATION OF AZOREAN PEOPLE (MAPA) WAS BROKEN INTO BY YOUTHS LOOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE MDP. YOUTHS ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT TRIAL PROVOKED PONTA DELGADA LEFT WING PARTIES TO ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE PROTESTING ARREST AND DEFENDING ACT AS LEGITIMATE EXPRESSION OF POLITICAL OPINION. PPD ONLY PONTA DELGADA POLITICAL PARTY WHICH DID NOT JOIN IN COMMUNIQUE.

3. SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO AZORES BY GEN. CARLOS FABIAO PROVIDED LEFT WITH OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK MAPA AND ISOLATE PPD. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH LOCAL LEFTIST LEADERS, FABIAO ATTACKED MAPA IN PRESS AS "REACTIONARY" ORGANIZATION. SOON THEREAFTER, LOCAL CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION PROGRAM BEGAN OPEN DENUNCIATION OF MAPAQ OVER GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED EMISSORA REGIONAL RADIO STATION. ON JANUARY

14, MEANWHILE LOCAL PS, CITING FABIAO'S REMARKS ON MAPA, CALLED ON
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PPD TO CLEARLY DEFINE ITS POSITION VIS A VIS THAT ORGANIZATION.
PPD, WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY AVOIDED ATTACKING MAPA TO DATE,
SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED COMMUNIQUE DENYING ANY CONNACION WITH
MOVEMENT.

4. ANTI-MAPA CAMPAIGN REACHED APEX EVENINGS OF JANUARY 13 AND 14
WHEN MAPA RALLIES IN TOWNS OF RIBEIRA GRANDE AND VILA FRANCA
DISRUPTED BY YOUTHS WHO SHOUTED DOWN SPEAKERS. MAPA LEADERS
TERMINATED MEETINGS WITHOUT VIOLENCE, HAVE HELD NO MORE TO DATE.

5. NEW WRINKLE EMERGED EVENING JANUARY 22 WHEN COMMUNISTS
ATTEMPTING
HOLD MEETING IN TOWN OF RIBEIRINHA ATTACKED PHISICALLY BY
ALLEGED MAPA AND/OR PPD SUPPORTERS. FOLLOWING DAY PONTA DELGADA
CITY WALLS BLOSSOMED WITH SIGNS READING " BORGES COUTINHO (MDP
CIVIL GOVERNOR OF DISTRICT)- GUT; JOAO BOSCO (MOTA AMARAL, PONTA
DELGADA PPD LEADER) - IN".

6. MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT TO DATE OCCURED JAN 27 WHEN PCP RALLY
IN RIBEIRA GRANDE AT WHICH LUIS SANTOS OF PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE
TG SPEAK, BROKEN UP BY SIZEABLE CROWD OF YOUTHS CHANTING "PPD"
AND THROWING BOTTLES AND VEGETABLES. YOUTHS HAD PREVIOUSLY SET UP
ROADBLOCKS TO PREVENT LEFTIST SYMPATIAZERS FROM ATTENDING RALLY.
CIVIL AND MILITARY POLICE CALLED OUT TO RESTORE ORDER BUT CROWD
REFUSED DISPERSE FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS.
DANIELS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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